

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254587

THE FOLLOWING REPEATS ATHENS 8274 ACTION SECSTATE  
INFO DIA WASHDC USCINCEUR THESSALONIKI 18 NOVEMBER  
1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK ELECTIONS - INITIAL POST-CAMPAIGN ATMOSPHERICS

1. SUMMARY: CARAMANLIS' IMPRESSIVE VICTORY EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS OF LOCAL POLLSTERS AND CAFENION PROPHETS; MAVROS' CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES PERFORMED ABOUT AS EXPECTED, GIVING IT A WEAK SECOND PLACE; WHILE PASOK AND TO LESSER EXTENT UNITED LEFT SUFFERED SETBACKS. AS ONE POLITICAL OBSERVER COMMENTED "PAPADOPOULOS MATURED US, CARAMANLIS REAPED THE HARVEST." END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL ATHENS AND GREECE AS A WHOLE ARE BACK AT BUSINESS AS USUAL IN STATE OF SATISFACTION AFTER PARTICIPATION IN ORDERLY AND FIRST ELECTIONS AFTER TEN YEARS. MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACKING IS NOW IN FULL SWING WITH VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS BEING TENTATIVELY HAZARDED EVEN BEFORE FINAL RESULTS ARE KNOWN. IN ADDITION TO MORE COMMONPLACE INTERPRETATIONS OF OVERWHELMING VICTORY OF CARAMANLIS' NEW DEMOCRACY (PUBLIC SOUGHT STABILITY AND SECURITY; CARAMANLIS PRESENTED CONVINCING RECORD OF PAST  
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ACHIEVEMENTS; ND CAMPAIGN WELL ORGANIZED AND FINANCED; CARAMANLIS

OUT-MANEUVURED HIS ADVERSARIES ON MAJOR ISSUES; AND NO SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING OUTSTANDING NEW CANDIDATES) CAFE SERVANTS ARE SAYING VOTERS CROSSED PARTY LINES TO GIVE CARAMANLIS POSITIVE MANDATE TO CONFRONT SERIOUS PROBLEMS AHEAD OF GREECE. OTHERS NOTE SEVEN YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP HAD SOBERING EFFECT ON GREEK PSYCHOLOGY WHICH INFLUENCED VOTERS TO FAVOR TESTED POLITICIANS OF ND AND CENTER UNION. RECALLING POLITICS OF NEGATIVISM OF PAST, VOTERS ENJOYING COVERAGE OF CAMPAIGN IN NATIONWIDE TV FOR FIRST TIME, ARE SAID TO HAVE VIEWED WITH SOME DISMAY ANTICS AND POLEMICS OF PASOK'S ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, AND IN REACTION CAST BALLOT FOR ND. "CASTROISM" HAS NO PLACE IN GREECE IS REPEATED OFTEN AND SOMBERLY IN POLITICAL CIRCLES. TELEVISION ON OTHER HAND IS ASSUMED TO HAVE SERVED CARAMANLIS WELL BECAUSE HE PRESENTED DIGNIFIED, ALWAYS POLISHED, AND STERN IMAGE TO VIEWERS.

3. PASOK'S POOR SHOWING, WHICH REVEALED ONLY MINIMAL SUCCESS IN CARVING OUT ELECTORATE SUPPORT FROM CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES AND UNITED LEFT, IS ATTRIBUTED TO ANDREAS' DEMAGOGUERY, CASUAL ATTIRE IN SHARP CONTRAST TO GREEK CAMPAIGN TRADITION, YOUTHFULNESS OF HIS SUPPORTERS, MANY OF WHOM PRESUMABLY ARE NOT YET REGISTERED VOTERS, AND FACT GREEK VOTERS AT THIS TIME WERE UNWILLING TO ENGAGE THEMSELVES IN EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROVERSIAL NEW POLITICAL

MOVEMENT. AS ONE OLD-TIMER REMARKED "ANDREAS SCARED VOTERS TO NEW DEMOCRACY," THUS INADVERTENTLY HELPING HIS MAIN ADVERSARY. AS OF THIS WRITING IT APPEARS POSSIBLE THAT PAPANDREOU WILL SUFFER ULTIMATE HUMILIATION OF FAILURE TO RUN FIRST ON HIS OWN TICKET IN THESSALONIKI, NECESSITATING FRONT-RUNNING PASOK CANDIDATE NESTOR TO RESIGN HIS SEAT IN PAPANDREOU'S FAVOR.

4. WHILE UNITED LEFT NEARLY HELD ITS TRADITIONAL 10 O/O STRENGTH, FACT THAT BOTH KKE FACTIONS WERE LEGALIZED DID NOT SEEM TO BENEFIT EA CANDIDATES. SIGNIFICANCE OF UNITED LEFT'S MODERATION DURING PRE-ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND IN POST-ELECTION STATEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE ASSESSED IN LIGHT OF THEIR SUBSEQUENT BEHAVIOR AND THE RELATIVE SUCCESS OF KKE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CANDIDATES. IT IS OF MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE TWO KKE'S WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF UNITED LEFT VOTES AMONG CANDIDATES OF THE TWO FACTIONS, PLUS EDA, ALTHOUGH PASOK'S

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BLEEDING OFF OF SOME INTERNAL KKE VOTES MAY FALSIFY THE RESULTS BY STRENGTHENING THE FLORAKIS FACTION (KKE EXTERNAL).

5. IN SUM, ATHENIANS AND PROVINCES SEEM WELL PLEASED WITH OUTCOME AND THEMSELVES AND READY TO TAKE RESPITE IN INDIAN SUMMER WEATHER BEFORE NEXT BALLOTING DECEMBER 8 TO DETERMINE FATE OF MONARCHY.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO NATO CAPITALS.

KUBISCH

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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